

## EFL STUDENTS' PERCEPTION ON PLAGIARISM IN ACCOMPLISHING THESIS

Muhammad Nur Khuzaini

*(Mahasiswa Jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris FKIP Unisma)*

[muhnurkhuzaini@gmail.com](mailto:muhnurkhuzaini@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** Plagiarism has become one form of cheating that occurs in the academic system. Some students do plagiarism by their intelligent ways, for example by changing some grammatical structures. This study focused on knowing the students' perception. In writing with sources, plagiarism defined as the act of admission. The thesis is a scientific work written by undergraduate students on the subject of a specific topic or field. This study is a tool for providing multidimensional data required to gain an understanding of students' perception of plagiarism in the completion of the thesis. This research conducted through a questionnaire to collect the data needed. Some people think plagiarism is not good, and some think it is positive because plagiarism helps students finish their thesis. English Department students at Universitas Islam Malang did plagiarism. Plagiarism may also be positive or negative as plagiarism allows them to accomplish their tasks. Reasons include lack of motivation, laziness and less honesty.

**Key Words:** Plagiarism, Perceptions, Thesis.

### INTRODUCTION

Technology has a tradition of transforming society. Over the last few centuries, handheld devices, iPhone, Android phones, computers, and, most notably, the internet have fundamentally changed the way people communicate in society and the way educators function in schools. Current technology in schools is key to student success in higher education because of changing times and high demands on tech-savvy workers. It is imperative that the educators of the 21st century adapt to technology advancement and not only train themselves for it, but also prepare their learners for the actual world of technology, Sutton (2013). One is to help students to complete their plagiarism task, and then make students spiteful to do their job creations easily because this information is obtained.

Plagiarism in university became a problem when many students do it; they do Plagiarism to fulfill its task. Studies must explain the psychological causes of these behaviors, 170 expectations, and perceptions of control in order to accomplish this objective. As a result, the objective of this review study was to outline the psychological states and characteristics that encourage both intentional plagiarism and unspoken plagiarism, Moss et al., (Moss et al., 2018) Plagiarism among some students continues to happen. That is why it should be eradicated at university. Sometimes, students plagiarize everyone or part of someone else's ideas, information, and creations. On the other hand, some of them do plagiarism by their intelligent ways, for example by changing some grammatical structures, and replacing some original words with the original word synonym. Plagiarism has become one form of cheating that occurs in the academic system.

Based on my experience as an English student. Plagiarism may occur when students do their paperwork and essay work at Universitas Islam Malang. Education in languages was responsible for one of the research on plagiarism. R Diana (2011) with the title *Knowledge, attitude, and perception of plagiarism among Students and Teachers at Stockholm University*. The findings showed that the problem of plagiarism must be vague both for students and teachers. The students and teachers have the same opinion on many subjects, such as the issue of explicit knowledge about what is permitted and not permitted, but on other subjects, specific pieces of a code snippet taken from a book or internet are perfectly appropriate in programming while the same thing does not apply to assignments in writing.

Taking into consideration the above that the problem already mentioned, the researcher conducts that whole research in the Department of English Language Education of Universitas Islam Malang entitled, “EFL Students’ Perception on Plagiarism in Accomplishing Thesis at Universitas Islam Malang”.

Particularly in relation to the background of the study, this study focused on the perception of plagiarism by English Department Students of Universitas Islam Malang when completing their thesis. For this research, the specific research questions are (1) What are students’ perceptions of plagiarism in

completing the thesis? (2) Why did English Department students at Universitas Islam Malang do plagiarism? The objective of study is to find out (1) To investigate students' perception of plagiarism in completing thesis. (2) To find the reasons why English Department students of Universitas Islam Malang did plagiarism. This research is important so that helps the teacher discovers what perceptions and why do students perceive plagiarism? This work also aimed at helping students to understand plagiarism and to be completely aware of their assignments and theses. In addition, this research also used as a reference point for further researchers who wish to conduct other plagiarism-related research.

This study focused on knowing the students' perception of plagiarism when doing their thesis. The data collection was conducted to 20 students of English department at Universitas Islam Malang. The study was done through the questionnaire using Google Forms to students for collecting the data. By that questionnaire, the researcher was able to know the perception English department of Universitas Islam Malang. In addition, the limitation of this research was the use of Google forms for collecting information from participants because researchers better collect information directly in a single room via oral interviews to produce a good and in-depth result.

There are several terms in this study that should be explained to avoid misunderstanding, they are: EFL stands for English as Foreign Language is learning English in a non-English-speaking country. In this study, EFL students are English Department students in 8th semester who are completing a thesis at Universitas Islam Malang. In this research, perception means the understanding of students' thoughts about plagiarism whether it was negative or positive. Plagiarism is taken from somebody without creations and ideas. Plagiarism can also change some words, grammatical constructions, or use synonyms of the original words rather than simply copying and pasting to cover up their plagiarism. In this research, the thesis means *skripsi* or a final assignment as scientific papers, as an exposure-writing Universitas Islam Malang student's results.

There is a variety of perception theories. Perception as a method is best specified in the brain to be aware, to organize (to collect and store), to be aware of this; and sensory information perception (committed to knowledge). (Matlin, 1989) defined perception as a process for detecting or obtaining and interpreting a stimulus (stimulus) sensed in sensory devices such as eyes, ears, and nose, using knowledge already possessed (stored in memory). In short, a method for understanding or decoding knowledge acquired through the framework of human meaning can be said to be the prerequisite. For example, if a person sees a picture, reads a text, or hears a certain sound, they will interpret it based on their knowledge and their relevance. The perception of somebody was to influence and react to him or her act. Shaleh (2009) defined perception as being capable of distinction and classification and focusing attention on something perception is the receipt, selection, organization, interpretation process, Assess and react to stimulate the senses or data.

Unlike some of the above definitions, Lindsay and Norman, as cited, believe this "interpretation is closely related to attitudes. The method of translating an object into something concrete based on past experience." It means that while collecting information through his or her sensory, the mind begins to interpret the message that has been given. As a consequence, the person may have an opinion as to whether or not this is healthy.

In addition to these definitions, Shaleh (2009) defined perception based on the Islamic perspective; it defines the psychological function as a link between the understanding of the event and the reality of life. In brief, the writer would say that the concept of perception is a method of understanding the meaning of objects, activities, persons, things, etc. by the use of sense organs, which informed by previous experience. There are some factors that determine perception (1) Psychological the input obtained from the sensing systems will affect and supplement attempts to assign sense to the external world. The ability to perceive each person is different, so the interpretation of the environment may also be different (Gibson, 1995). Based on this issue, the author has assumed that the perception of English students about plagiarism in completing the assignment will

vary. (2) Mood the emotional condition of someone often affects his or her actions, the mood shows how one's feelings at a time can affect the way a person is in. Receive, respond, and remember (Gibson, 1995). (3) Quality and the need of the person. This factor was how strong someone's focus was on looking for objects. Alternatively, messages that can offer answers to match him or her. Shaleh & Wahab (2004) compared the need for an artist and a non-artist to do so. A different style and taste in the perception of an object. Other research has also stated that the poor found the coin to be more precious than the wealthy. (4) Perceptual education. Based on previous experiences or special training. People are getting. All learn to stress certain sensory inputs and to disregard others. For instance, somebody who has been trained in certain works such as art or other skilled work can do better than others not trained. Blind people can identify based on their voices and tracks (Saleh & Wahab, 2004). (5) Interest the way an object perceived depends on how much energy it is. Vigilance is a person's tendency to pay attention to a specific person. The stimulus type or interest may be considered (Gibson, 1995).

Plenty of plagiarism definitions and theories exist. Defines the most perception of taking and using the ideas of another person, or of one's own. Soelistyo (2011) as cited in Lindsey (2011) said that plagiarism is a plagiarizing act idea of people, and the creation of someone to be recognized as their own creation or use it without mentioning the source which causes misconceptions or errors the origin of an idea, and its creation. In writing with sources, plagiarism is defined as the act of admission. Somebody's ideas, or words, and the informant as your own, without that. Recognize their source — an act of deceit, cheating, cheating (Harvey, 2008). Asep Jihad and Suyanto (2011) defined plagiarism as stealing ideas, words, sentence, or the result of the research of another person, and present it as if it were the work itself. According to the Ministry of Education, Regulation No 17 of 2010: "Plagiarism is an act knowingly or unknowingly designed to obtain or attempt to do so. Obtaining credit or value for scientific work, citing a part or all of the work and/or scientific work of another party

recognized as scientific work, without having the source appropriately and appropriately declared.

All students of Universitas Islam Malang need to complete their thesis as a condition of graduation. In completing the thesis, students need to quote and refer to some of the obvious sources to explain some of the theories in their research. However, if someone intentionally fails to mention the source of the referral, the person may be categorized as having been plagiarized. There are several types of plagiarism (1) Idea Plagiarism this type is plagiarizing someone's idea and making a new creation out of it. It is an idea. This type is hard to prove, because it is abstract, and it's possible. The similarity of similarity between the two people. (Soelistyo, 2011). (2) Word by Word Plagiarism this type quotes someone's word-by-word creation until the whole thing. The original idea was drawn and then placed on some of his own work parts without mentioning the source. (Soelistyo, 2011) (3) The Source Plagiarism this type is when someone does not mention the source. Referred to in the quotation. Not, for example, in the footnote to the thesis, it was not appropriate to mention the name of the author or the pages (Soelistyo, 2011). (4) Plagiarism authorship this is when someone knows the other creation as his own creation for one's own. For instance, rename the creation of someone as his own. Get the values (Soelistyo, 2011).

The student is frequently plagued and does not suddenly appear. A person does plagiarism, especially for several factors according to Ariani (2011), students who exercise plagiarism include: The lack of socialization in special universities in student's plagiarism is one of the plagiarist causes. Plagiarism, a breach of ethics and legislation that must be socialized or notified in different ways to students, Students are not expected to be plagiaristic.

Students who fail to see what plagiarism is since they do not follow scientific techniques of writing, they believe that writing strategies and new students who have not been able to learn on their own have obtained knowledge about how to prevent plagiarism in order for students who do not unintentionally recognize this plagiarism and do not want to be plagiarism called plagiarism as the student had the idea of thinking about a source of bibliography is appropriate.

The lack of control by various parties is one cause of plagiarism. Suppose the plagiarism of the students, one because students were not supervised both their daily lives and their content in the development of science documents. The campus and its lecturer as a mentor can be a permissive attitude to encourage action plagiarism. Do not pay attention to the lecturers and supervision for students when they write scientifically this could particularly lead to plagiarism for students.

The thesis is a scientific work written by undergraduate students on the subject of a specific topic or field based on the literature review results Experts, outcomes of field experiments, or outcomes of development or testing. Writing a thesis is also part of the program's science discipline. The activity was very significant because the graduation rate or the completeness of the undergraduate program measured by the quality of the results of the study that has been completed. The thesis is the final research or peak research that considered providing a measure of the extent of understanding or discipline of the attitudes of the students concerned. Students begun write their thesis in the 8th semester. As a result, the author focused on the perception of the eighth semester of students of English Language Department Education. Based on the study material and the form of discussion, there are many. Thesis type: The literature review is a study of a topic to be conducted to solve a question because of a critical and in-depth evaluation of the related issue in its literature. Materials that are theoretical information, technical explanation, or application findings from different sources of this literature analyzed critically and presented new systematics based on specific needs. So, such library resources presented as a source of ideas or appreciation that can be shared. Let us be shared or other thoughts. Therefore, deductive reasoning also applied to this sort of review of the literature.

Field research is a kind of observational data based analysis. The researchers produce a result. This field research can be divided into, based on the approach Two types of research: quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative Research is a study using deductive, inductive thinking patterns in principle, this is the pattern of reasoning, which differs from the theoretical background the

experts' ideas, or the research understanding has developed a series of problems and their solutions to be justified in the form of empirical field support data. In the meantime, qualitative analysis is a test that seeks to show symptoms or events in a holistic-contextual way. The collection of data from nature as a direct source by participation researchers is a key instrument. Qualitative research is descriptive.

It is inclined to use analysis with an inductive rationale pattern. The, therefore, Definition of process and meaning (subject perspective) is further highlighted in the field of qualitative analysis. This sort of field research thesis, therefore, consists of two. Forms, namely the quantitative field of study thesis and the qualitative field thesis of science. The development of research is the design of the activities to solve the actual problem problems in the use of theories, ideas, and beliefs, or related work performance. This creation process is therefore essentially pragmatic. This is the thesis of this type of development that has a difference in comparison to the type of research in the field. If the type of thesis field study attempts to evaluate the proposed answer to these questions, the development of the type of thesis attempts to apply the solution of a problem.

## **METHOD**

This research is about qualitative analysis. It is a way to have the multidimensional data needed to gain an understanding of student perceptions of plagiarism when finishing a thesis. Qualitative research is an approach to the comprehension and universal sense of individuals or groups on social issues as well as on human issues. In addition, the qualitative analysis starts with the use of ideas that can shape or influence analysis under review (Creswell, 2014).

The participants are 8th-semester students of English Department of Universitas Islam Malang. The total participants of this study were 20 students, and the researcher used random sampling in this research. This study is qualitative research, a tool for providing multidimensional data required to gain an understanding of students' perception of plagiarism in the completion of the thesis. Including Morse (1991), notes that participants are words that used in social sciences in surveys and the participants asked to answer structured and semi-



structured questions. Generally, the participants gave the researcher the answer to the question, and none other.

This research conducted through a questionnaire to collect the data needed. This is a qualitative research methodology that includes an extensive questionnaire with a limited number of respondents to examine their viewpoints on a particular concept, program, or circumstance (Boyce & Neale, 2006). This questionnaire was important to explore their understanding of plagiarism while writing their thesis and this questionnaire took 5-10 minutes for each participant to answer the question given. Because of this time is happening coronavirus pandemic, so the researcher took the data used Google Forms.

The questionnaire results were descriptive qualitatively analyzed in this study. The researcher then classified the data based on research questions and performed the following activities: data reduction activity, display of data, and drawing or verification of conclusions. The researcher needs to check the data multiple times from Google Forms to get the correct information from the respondents. Then the researcher writes the data to the book, reads the data, and sees all the data. This stage provided a description of the information and a platform for all purposes. What are the participants' general ideas? What are the core of it and the completion of all the information? The final step in the analysis of data related to the interpretation of findings or results. It consists of a summary of results, comparing results with previous literature and theory, and concluding with research suggestions.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS**

After analyzing the data collected from the questionnaire the researcher would like to presents the results, the first research problem was the students' perceptions of plagiarism in completing the thesis. In addition, the second research problem was the reasons of doing plagiarism by English students at Universitas Islam Malang.

Based on the questionnaire results, nearly all students as participants are of the same plagiarism knowledge.

**Table 1: The Perception about Types of Plagiarism**

NO	Perception about types of plagiarism	The number of students	Types of plagiarism
1	Participants said that copying and pasting is plagiarism.	7	Word by word plagiarism
2	Plagiarism is copy and paste without any permission from the owner	2	Source Plagiarism
3	Plagiarism is copying and pasting the work and ideas of someone and pretending it is their work.	3	Plagiarism Idea
4	Copy and paste plagiarism without resource being put.	4	Source Plagiarism
5	In academic writing plagiarism is illegal.	2	-
6	Plagiarism is copying and pasting words or taking words without paraphrasing them.	1	Word by word plagiarism
7	Plagiarism was a practice that students needed to do to ensure their writing was not the same as other sources.	1	-

Based on Table 1, all participants generally said, "Copying and pasting is plagiarism." In addition, the researcher divided the perception of the types of plagiarism related to the theory in Chapter II.

**Table 2: The Perception about Positive or Negative of Plagiarism**

NO	The perception about plagiarism	The number of students
1	Participants said that plagiarism is a negative	17
2	Participants said that plagiarism is a positive	3

Based on Table 2, all participants generally said, "Plagiarism is negative." In addition to their perception, fifteen of twenty of the participants admitted that they had plagiarism done. Moreover, five participants said that they never did plagiarism because they know that is illegal to do.

Based on questionnaire results, the participants said there several reasons why students have been plagiarizing:

**Table 3: The Reasons for Plagiarism**

NO	The reason for plagiarism	The number of students
1	They think because of the thesis or assignment is difficult to finish so they do plagiarism.	3
2	They do not have any idea to do their assignments.	5

3	They do not know how to citation summarize or paraphrase it.	2
4	They are too lazy to search for the previous study and they want the instant way to finish their assignment or thesis.	5

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All of the participants have their reasons why they did plagiarism. Based on Table 3, all participants generally chose the reason "They think because of the thesis or assignment is difficult to finish so they do plagiarism." Therefore, that reason influenced the second reason "They are too lazy to search the previous study and they want the instant way to finish their assignment or thesis."

In addition, almost all of the participants do plagiarism; I found that it was because of the punishment of the plagiarism among students was unclear. Seven of twenty participants do not know the punishment they will get if they do plagiarism. I think it is because there is no written policy on plagiarism in this faculty of teacher training and education at Universitas Islam Malang, especially in English department major. Six of the participants were not sure about their answer, therefore, they just assume about the punishment when they were doing plagiarism. However, five of them said that the worst punishment is they can get jailed because of plagiarism.

Based on the first research question what are students' perceptions of plagiarism in completing the thesis, the result of the questionnaire showed that perceptions about plagiarism in completing the thesis were different; everyone has different perceptions of plagiarism. Seventeen out of twenty participants said plagiarism is a negative thing, but three of them said plagiarism is positive, and plagiarism could sometimes be positive or negative because plagiarism helps them to fulfill their tasks when they do not have any ideas. This is in line with (Park, 2003) students perceive plagiarism as not a big deal and that was the reason why there was a problem of plagiarism.

Some say plagiarism copies and pastes other works unless you put any resources, paste, or copy words without paraphrasing them, and take creations or statements without putting their source without putting a source. This is in line with Prihantini & Indudewi, 2017 said that the copy-paste method is a result of

plagiarism. Copy-paste practice is something students usually do in the course of their study activities. In addition, it is not shocking that we also find several links in one student's responses and another student where the copy-paste activity is part of plagiarism.

The students at Universitas Islam Malang have been developing these understandings for quite a long time, as the first participant said: "Plagiarism is a kind of action to steal the work of a person by copying the work without paraphrasing it, even without crediting the owner of the work." Some people think plagiarism is not good, and some think plagiarism is positive because plagiarism helps students finish their thesis. While those who believe plagiarism is not good to have claimed that plagiarism is not good for the thesis because it does not mention the source or more as stealing. Some of them said that plagiarism copies and pastes word for word without any change or mention of source or reference. This is in line with the Ministry of Education, Regulation No 17 of 2010: "Plagiarism is an act intentionally or unintentionally to obtain or attempt to do so. Obtaining credit or value for scientific work, citing a part or all of the work and/or scientific work of another party recognized as scientific work, without having the source appropriately and appropriately declared. This policy describes plagiarism explicitly and in line with the perception of plagiarism between students.

Based on the second research question the second research problem was the reasons of doing plagiarism by English students at Universitas Islam Malang. As a result, all the participants mentioned some of the reasons why the students were plagiarizing. They are not the choice of reference for their assignment; they have no idea how to paraphrase or summarize the easy statements; they are lazy to do so; paraphrase or summarize the statements; lack of motivation to read some journals or references; limited time to complete the assignment; insufficient data for their assignment and thesis or limited resources. These findings concur with the study Ariani (2011), all of those causes are not distinct. She stated that the point plagiarism could even occur due to various: lack of social interaction; deep misunderstanding of plagiarism; less regulation of plagiarism, lack of motivation, laziness, and less honesty.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Regarding to these research findings, some conclusions can be drawn that on the first research question that was, what are students' perceptions of plagiarism in completing the thesis? It indicates that students have different definitions of plagiarism depending on the data set. Seventeen out of twenty participants agreed that plagiarism is a negative, but three participants said that plagiarism is positive. This is in line with the previous study that students perceive plagiarism as not a big deal and that was the reason why there was a problem of plagiarism. Plagiarism may also be positive or negative as plagiarism allows them to accomplish their tasks without having any knowledge of paraphrasing statements or theories. The negative side is detrimental to the original owner. Some say plagiarism copies and pastes other works unless you put any resources, paste, or copy words without paraphrasing them, and take creations or statements without putting their source without putting a source. This is in line with the previous study that the copy-paste method is a result of plagiarism.

Moreover, the next conclusion was based on the second research question that was, why did English Department students at Universitas Islam Malang do plagiarism? Based on the result of the questionnaire, all of the participants said that there are some reasons why the student did plagiarism, they are: They think because of the thesis or assignment is difficult to finish so they do plagiarism, They do not have any idea to do their assignments, They do not know how to citation summarize or paraphrase it. These findings concur with the previous study that the point plagiarism could even occur due to various: lack of social interaction; deep misunderstanding of plagiarism; less regulation of plagiarism, lack of motivation, laziness, and less honesty.

The future researchers must consider gathering the data include questionnaires and detailed sample interviews to collect more knowledge and obtain a better understanding of student perception. In order to obtain accurate data, the potential researcher must do an oral interview. In order to make students had better understand what plagiarism is, more work on this subject is highly needed. The lecturers should check the plagiarism of students' assignment or task

using plagiarism detector before the students submit it. Students should study more about the rules of citation, also study the way to avoid plagiarism, and do not lazy to read the journal article.

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